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30 JUL 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information Requirements Staff

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ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Report of NRO-Sponsored Color Task Force

1. We have reviewed carefully the NRO Color Task Force Report. As you are aware, NPIC personnel participated in the preparation of the Report. Its recommendations and conclusions are consistent with the views of the Center toward the present and projected use of color photography in the National Reconnaissance Program.

2. The Center has recommended the establishment of a coordinated program to evaluate the utility of color photography as a joint CIA/DIA effort. This would expand on NRO and COMIREX evaluations conducted to date. The effort would be accomplished by a small team of representatives from the production offices of both agencies -- the analytical side -- and at least one NPIC photo interpreter officer. The team would not only plan for systematic evaluation of the usefulness of color photography, but also make recommendations on the targeting involved. Their findings would be made available to the NRO and COMIREX for appropriate action.

3. In addition, NPIC would assign a small group of PI's and a photo-scientist to evaluate color photography under the direction of the planning team mentioned above. To begin with, this team might have to devote full time to the effort.

4. Our views about the status of the satellite color photography program have not changed since we commented on the Interim Color Report prepared for the Deputy Director for Science and Technology. I am attaching a copy of these comments since they provided additional details which may be appropriate to your present review.

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NRO review(s)  
completed.

Acting Executive Director  
National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachment:

dated 20 April 1971

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